

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2741

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLASTEL AVIV 3226

JERUSALEM FOR VELIOTES/LEFKOW

CAIRO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY'S JUNE 11 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ALL ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS JUNE 12 GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO SECRETARY'S JUNE 11 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG, BASED ON WIRE-SERVICES AND ISRAELI REPORTERS IN WASHINGTON. PRESS QUOTES EXCERPTS FROM PRESS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS US PRESS COMMENTARIES AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTIONS. TWO NEWSPAPERS CITED THE SECRETARY'S THREATENED RESIGNATION IN EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

2. AL-HAMISHMAR (MAPAM) EDITORIAL, COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP, STATES THAT "THE START OF NIXON'S TRIP PROVES THE EXTENT TO WHICH THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TRIP AND AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS. KISSINGER'S DRAMATIC APPEARANCE IN AUSTRIA AND THE THREAT TO RESIGN..IF HIS NAME CONTINUES TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE WATERGATE AFFAIR PROVES HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR US ADMINISTRATION HEADS TO DETACH THEMSELVES FROM THIS EMBARRASSING AFFAIR EVEN WHEN THE PRESIDENT GOES ON A MUCH PRESTIGIOUS TRIP..."

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3. MAARIV REPORTER IN WASHINGTON (SEGEV) WRITES THAT KISSINGER'S THREAT TO RESIGN "WILL NOT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON HIS MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND MAY NOT EVEN AFFECT HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW... THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENAT COMMITTEE..IS AWARE OF THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF KISSINGER'S PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST TOGETHER WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THEREFORE IT IS NOT ASSUMED THAT HE WILL BE ASKED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON NOW..."

4. MAARIV EDITORIAL WRITES THAT "KISSINGER'S THREAT IN SALZBURG.. WAS..THE FIRST INSTANCE IN WHICH THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HAS LOST HIS CALMNESS AND WAS CARRIED AWAY WITH HIS EMOTIONS...IT WAS NOT A POLITICAL TRICK BY A MAN WHO SOUGHT TO GAIN SUPPORT AND SILENCE CRITICISM. IT WAS A PAINFUL REACTION BY A MAN DEEPLY OFFENDED... 'THE SUPERMAN', WHO UNTIL A SHORT TIME AGO WAS DEPICTED AS THE MASTER MAGICIAN OF DIPLOMACY, SHOWED YESTERDAY THE WEAK POINT IN HIS CHARACTER. AND BECAUSE THE REVELATION WAS SO SINCERE AND SO SPONTANEOUS--AND ALSO SO UNWISE (BECAUSE YOU CANNOT SILENCE THE PRESS BY RESIGNATION THREATS)--IT ADDED TO HIM A VERY HUMAN DIMENSION." VELIOTES

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